

Remarks

Claims 1-20 were pending.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claim 4 is original.

Claims 3, 5-10 and 16-19 are as previously amended.

Claims 11-15 and 20 are cancelled.

The application now contains claims 1-10 and 16-19.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate limitations from claims 3 and 4 into the definition of component a), namely

"wherein the platelet-shaped particles are pigments that comprise

(a1) a core consisting of a substantially transparent or metallically reflecting material and

(a2) at least one coating substantially consisting of one or more silicon oxides (SiO_x layer) wherein the average molar ratio of oxygen to silicon is from 0.03 to < 0.95"

or

wherein the platelet-shaped particles are aluminium flakes coated with SiO_z wherein $0.95 \leq z \leq 2.0$."

Support is found in claims 3 and 4.

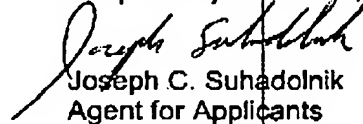
Claim 2 is now redundant and is cancelled. In order to aid prosecution and focus on particular features of the invention, Applicants have cancelled claims 11-15 and 20 but reserve the right to pursue this material in subsequent filings.

No new matter is added.

Consideration of the present claims on their merits is respectfully awaited.

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